

Remarks/Arguments

With the above amendments Claims 1-17 and 20 remain pending in the application.

Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 20 to recite that the acid-blocking material is formic acid, acetic acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid, gluconic acid, or N-(2-hydroxyethyl)imino-diacetic acid. Support for this amendment can be found in original Claim 19 and the specification at page 10/20-23. Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled.

Claims 1-9, 16-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102b as being anticipated by Eisen. The Examiner has allowed Claim 19 over the Eisen reference. Independent Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 19. Accordingly, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-17 and 20 are now patentable and request that the Examiner reconsider this 102b rejection and withdraw it.

Believing the application is now in condition for allowance, Applicants solicit an action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Leach
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 27,349

7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
(610) 481-8519